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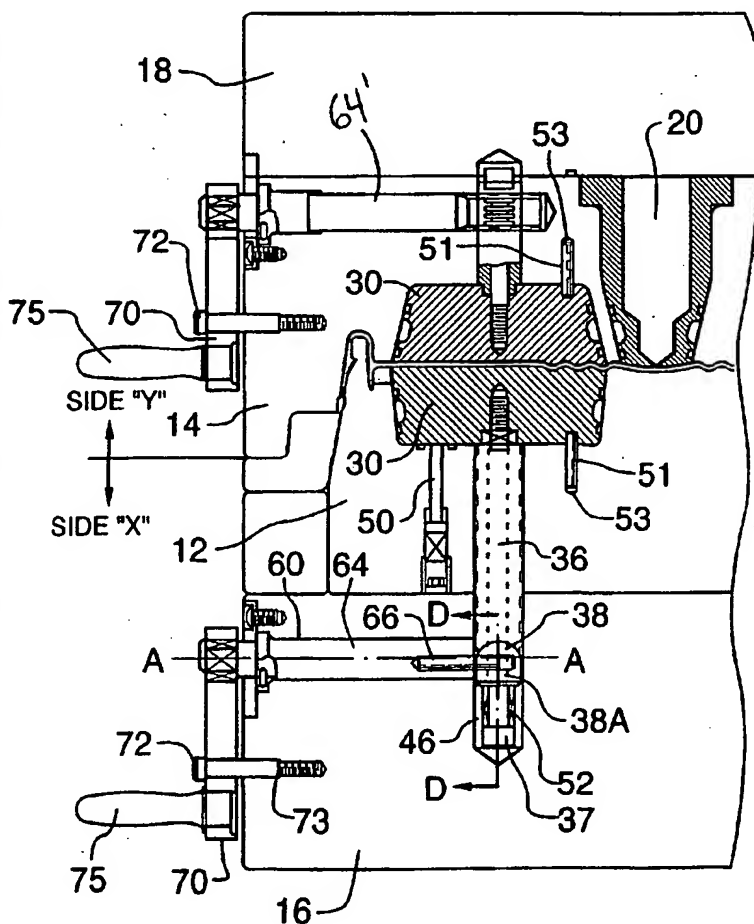
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(54) Title: **INTERCHANGEABLE MOLD INSERT SYSTEM**



(57) Abstract: An insert system for an injection mold apparatus is provided. The mold has a mold cavity plate (14) and a mold core plate (12) each secured to mold bases (16, 18), relatively movable between open and closed positions, each having opposing faces, the faces meeting to define a mold cavity between the two faces. At least one of the mold plate faces defines a facial pocket (40) therein for insertion of a mold insert (30). The mold insert is secured to an insert rod (36). The mold plate having the facial pocket (40) defines a passageway (46) extending from the facial pocket through the plate (12) and mold base (16). The insert rod is insertable into the passageway to a position where the insert sits within said facial pocket at a prelock position, where said insert is only partially inserted into said facial pocket. Preferably the insert is biased in this prelock position. Locking means (64, 66, 38, 70, 74, 76, 101, 63A, 63B) is operably connected to the insert rod (36), operable from the periphery of said mold base, to releasably lock the insert rod within said passage and thus the insert from said prelock position to a fully inserted position where the insert sits flush with the mold plate face.

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